

Serial No. 10/724,474

Patent
13010-02USA

In the Claims:

Claims 3-4 and 14 have been canceled previously. Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 5-7, and 13 as shown below. Please insert new claims 22-23 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A device for collecting biological samples comprising:
 - (i) at least one collection protrusion, which is attached to the body of the device, comprising at least one tip;
 - (ii) at least one pad for contacting the tip, wherein the pad comprises chemical preservatives or enzyme inhibitors; and
 - (iii) at least one cap, which is capable of sealingly enclosing the device; and
 - (iv) at least one aeration hole.
2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the tip is a wick, spoon, pick, or swab.
- 3-4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cap is connected to the device and is coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant.
6. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cap is detached from the device and is coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant.
7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the cap slidably encloses the device and is coated with silica gel, a molecular sieve, or a desiccant.
8. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is made of plastic.

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9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising material with instructions on using the device.
11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the instructions are in written form.
12. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein at least one collection protrusion is foldable or removable.
13. (Currently amended) A device for collecting biological samples comprising:
 - (i) at least one collection protrusion comprising at least one tip;
 - (ii) at least one pad for contacting the tip; and
 - (iii) a storage area for collecting liquid and/or solid sample, wherein inside of the liquid storage area is coated with a chemical preservative or enzyme inhibitor; and
 - (iv) at least one aeration hole.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein the liquid storage area is fitted with a syringe.
16. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein the syringe is fitted with a unidirectional piston.
17. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein the liquid storage area is fitted with tubing.

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18. (Original) The device according to claim 17, wherein the tubing is capillary tube.
19. (Original) The device according to claim 13, comprising an area for gathering a solid sample.
20. (Original) The device according to claim 19, wherein the solid sample collection area comprises a lid.
21. (Original) The device according to claim 13, wherein at least one collection protrusion is foldable or removable.
22. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the chemical preservatives or enzyme inhibitors is selected from a group consisting of DNase inhibitors, EDTA, buffers, sodium azide, sodium benzoate, procline, and thimerosal.
23. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the collection protrusion is foldable around a hinge.